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One of the most interesting and original investigations of the much-mooted subject of personal immortality is Prof. Gustav Theodor Fechner's little book, *On Life After Death*. The English translation by Hugo Wernekke, Head Master of the Realgymnasium at Weimar, first appeared in 1882, and was presented to its venerable author on his eightieth birthday. The book is written in a very popular style, and since the edition has long since been exhausted, the translator has thoroughly revised his work, which The Open Court Publishing Company now deems advisable to re-publish. A discussion of the publisher's position in regard to Professor Fechner's views, is contained elsewhere in this number of *The Monist*.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of The Monist:

In a discussion of the contemporary development of diplomacy in the July number of *The Monist* (Vol. XV, p. 474) the reviewer mentions as "the principle formulated by French kings in the impudent dictum, the ultimate reason of autocracy: *Car tel est notre bon plaisir*" and I regret to find here this trite assertion which is also a gross mistake.

Mr. Funck Brentano, who knows our seventeenth century so thoroughly, alluded to it quite recently in the review *Minerva* with reference to an historical novel by M. Henri De Régner. "*The bon plaisir*," writes he, "is diplomatically a heresy, a barbarism, as Count Mas-Latrie demonstrated in such a scholarly way in his conclusive article published by *La Bibliothèque des Chartes*. The only formula used in the royal acts is *tel est notre plaisir*, and these words are handed down by tradition from the very distant times when *plaisir* had a far more serious meaning. "At present," writes Froissart, "he (a count of Flanders) is pleased to obey the ordinances and pleasures of the king of France and the French."

The pleasure, or "good pleasure," if the latter be preferred, was the king's verdict pronounced by him as head of the State, after due deliberation with his council, and which could be delivered only after it was countersigned by a secretary of the government. Many facts also show that *bon plaisir* was not more exact in a figurative than in a literal sense.

I thought it of some use to send you this correction for the information of your readers. I have no doubt but you will be glad to be warned against ready made judgments, repeated by partially or ill-informed people.

PARIS, FRANCE.

LUCIEN ARRÉAT.

With the beginning of a new volume, we have decided to change the style of *The Monist* by having the more important essays printed in pica type, which we hope will make the reading of weighty matter easier; and we are especially glad to have secured for this first number of the new year, two articles on the physical constitution of the universe, a subject which is interesting to all speculative minds, and should therefore not be forgotten in philosophy. Both are popular in style so as to give a clear insight into the present status of our knowledge as to the elementary composition of the smallest units of the materials that constitute the universe.

Professor Lindemann's speech on "The Form of Atoms" is well supplemented by Mr. W. S. Andrews' "Manifestations of the Ether."

Professor Lindemann, who happens to be Rector Magnificus of the University of Munich, has kindly sent us the German original of the present essay which has served him as the official speech of his rectorate, and for interested readers we will state that it has just appeared in the *Süddeutsche Monatshefte* (Verlag von Adolf Bonz & Co., Stuttgart) from which it can be had in separate pamphlet form. Reference to others of Professor Lindemann's more technical expositions of the subject will be found in a footnote under the text.

The article by Mr. W. S. Andrews has been specially solicited to provide our readers with a popular sketch of the physical nature of the universe, giving particular consideration to the significance of Röntgen rays, radium, etc. And we have succeeded in procuring the man who in our opinion is best fitted for this purpose. Mr. Andrews has devoted his life to this specialty, and has been in personal contact with Mr. Thomas A. Edison, as an assistant in his inventive work.

He entered the service of Mr. Edison in 1879 when the great inventor was commencing the experimental development of his incandescent electric lamp and all the accessory apparatus required for a complete system of general distribution of electricity for lighting and other industrial purposes. Mr. Andrews was peculiarly fitted for this work by inclination and training, and in 1881 he was placed in charge of the testing of all the electric generators and other apparatus then being made under the Edison patents. In 1883 Mr. Edison entrusted to him the supervision of the electrical equipment of the Edison Electric Lighting Stations, and in 1885 he was appointed chief electrical engineer of the Edison Co. for isolated lighting. Since that date he has occupied many responsible and important positions, devoting his energies chiefly to engineering work in the field of electric lighting.

During the past eight or nine years Mr. Andrews has devoted much of his spare time to the study of X rays, radio-activity and other physical phenomena of this character, and being benefited by the suggestions and advice of one of the greatest inventors that has ever lived, and following the natural bent of his own gifted mind, he has established a reputation for himself as an authority in these lines of modern investigation and discovery